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ZAROGOZA, SPAIN

SERGIO NIETO GIL
VIA COUNSEL BUFETE MORENO-TORRES
A/A MANUEL MORENO-TORRES
PASEO DE PAMPLONA No. 1, 7°A
50004
ZAROGOZA, SPAIN

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Nieto Gil et al. :
Application No. 10/617,538 : CORRESPONDENCE
Filed: 11 July, 2003 :
Attorney Docket No.: FICO-002/00US :

Dear Sergio Nieto Gil:

You are named as inventor in the above identified United States patent application, filed under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §116 (United States Code), and 37 C.F.R. §1.47,¹ Rules of Practice

¹ The regulations at 37 C.F.R. §1.47 provide:

§ 1.47 Filing when an inventor refuses to sign or cannot be reached.

(a) If a joint inventor refuses to join in an application for patent or cannot be found or reached after diligent effort, the application may be made by the other inventor on behalf of himself or herself and the nonsigning inventor. The oath or declaration in such an application must be accompanied by a petition including proof of the pertinent facts, the fee set forth in §1.17(h), and the last known address of the nonsigning inventor. The nonsigning inventor may subsequently join in the application by filing an oath or declaration complying with §1.63.

(b) Whenever all of the inventors refuse to execute an application for patent, or cannot be found or reached after diligent effort, a person to whom an inventor has assigned or agreed in writing to assign the invention, or who otherwise shows sufficient proprietary interest in the matter justifying such action, may make application for patent on behalf of and as agent for all the inventors. The oath or declaration in such an application must be accompanied by a petition including proof of the pertinent facts, a showing that such action is necessary to preserve the

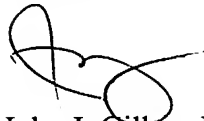
in Patent Cases. Should a patent be granted on the application you will be designated therein as inventor.

As a named inventor you are entitled to inspect any paper in the file wrapper of the application, order copies of all or any part thereof (at a prepaid cost per 37 C.F.R. §1.19) or make your position of record in the application. Alternatively, you may arrange to do any of the preceding through a registered patent attorney or agent presenting written authorization from you. If you care to join the application, counsel of record (see below) would presumably assist you. Joining in the application would entail the filing of an appropriate oath or declaration by you pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.63.

Requests for information regarding your application should be directed to the File Information Unit at (703) 308-2733.

Information regarding how to pay for and order a copy of the application, or a specific paper in the application, should be directed to Certification Division at (703) 308-9726 or toll-free: (800) 972-6382 (outside the Washington D.C. area).

Telephone inquiries concerning this letter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3214.



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rights of the parties or to prevent irreparable damage, the fee set forth in §1.17(h), and the last known address of all of the inventors. An inventor may subsequently join in the application by filing an oath or declaration complying with §1.63.

© The Office will send notice of the filing of the application to all inventors who have not joined in the application at the address(es) provided in the petition under this section, and publish notice of the filing of the application in the *Official Gazette*. The Office may dispense with this notice provision in a continuation or divisional application, if notice regarding the filing of the prior application was given to the nonsigning inventor(s).

[47 Fed. Reg. 41275, Sept. 17, 1982, effective Oct. 1, 1982; 48 Fed. Reg. 2709, Jan. 20, 1983, effective Feb. 27, 1983; revised, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, Oct. 10, 1997, effective Dec. 1, 1997; revised, 65 Fed. Reg. 54604, Sept. 8, 2000, effective Nov. 7, 2000]